

By Allen Carter

Wednesday, January 26, 2011

ALBANY, GA -- Millions of Americans tuned to listen to President Barack Obama's State of the Union Address Tuesday night.

The president talked about deficit trimming.

"I am proposing that starting this year, we freeze annual domestic spending for the next five years. This would reduce the deficit by more than \$400 billion over the next decade, and will bring discretionary spending to the lowest share of our economy since Dwight Eisenhower was president," said President Obama.

Putting people back to work.

"We will put more Americans to work repairing crumbling roads and bridges. We will make sure this is fully paid for, attract private investment, and pick projects based on what's best for the economy, not politicians," said the president.

And clean energy.

"By 2035, 80% of America's electricity will come from clean energy sources."

Several Southwest Georgians watched the address and when we talked to them, that four letter word from 2008 kept coming back up "hope."

“Hopefully we can all come together and do what he says we're going to do with it. Maybe it will turn this country around and this economy around, because we certainly do need that to happen,” said Brent Braswell.

“By him saying that, it gives the people a better perspective on how the government looks at us, so by him saying that I think it gives us a lot of hope,” said Brandon Glenn.

Representative Sanford Bishop gave high praise to the state of the union and wants to work harder to help.

Bishop issued a statement after the address:

“The President delivered an impressive, sincere, and realistic speech about the challenges we face and what we must do to meet these challenges. He reiterated tonight that while our economy and our country are beginning to move in the right direction, we still have a long way to go before our economy fully recovers.

“I was encouraged to hear him restate his commitment to working with both sides of the aisle to get our fiscal house in order. Solving our budgetary challenges will require both Democrats and Republicans to come together to guarantee that the 21st century is defined as the American century, and I look forward to working with the Administration to address these challenges.”

But some of his republican counterparts weren't totally sold, and still have major concerns about the national debt.

"The American people spoke loud and clear in November: They wanted Congress to rein in spending, they didn't want us to mortgage their children's future and they wanted to make sure the debt and deficit are reduced. It was clear.

"I'm disappointed the President is politically cherry-picking budget items to take off the table,

such as Social Security. I think we have to take the Debt Commission and their recommendation in its totality and debate all of it. There are parts that I don't like and there may be parts that the President doesn't like but we have a comprehensive problem that requires a comprehensive solution. Everything should be on the table.

"I am working hard on solutions. Senator Shaheen from New Hampshire and I are introducing this week the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act, which I have sponsored for the last six years and the Debt Commission recommended it as the number one process solution to the spending problem we have in Washington. It is my sincere hope that if we can go to the business of appropriating in odd numbered years and finding savings and conducting oversight in even numbered years – when members of Congress happen to be running for re-election – we will get a better handle on our spending, we will be better at accountability on federal programs and we will begin to rein in what has been a runaway spending problem," said Sen. Johnny Isakson in a statement.